

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR

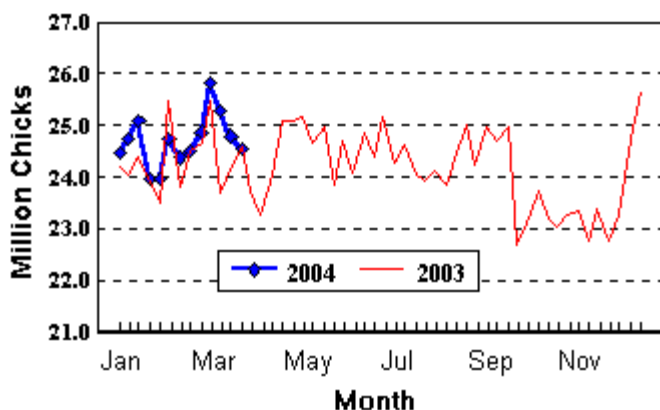
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 24.6 million during the week ending March 27, 2004. Placements were down slightly from the comparable week in 2003, and down 1 percent from the revised previous week, and included 3.1 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 27, 2004 were 321.5 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.8 million, up 3 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 1 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 4.0 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.9 percent.

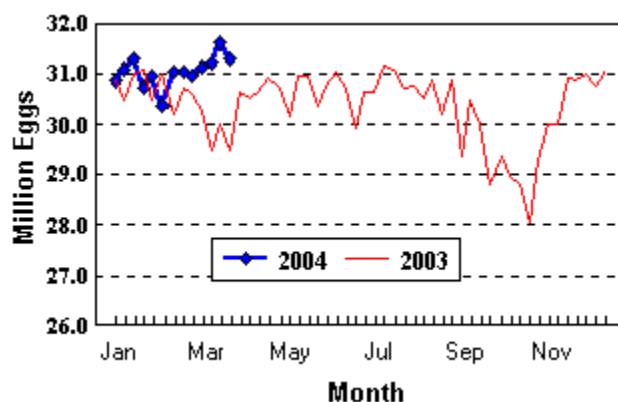
Arkansas hatcheries set 31.3 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending March 27, 2004, up 6 percent from the same period last year, but down 1 percent from the previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change
	<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>		
Feb. 21	24,509	24,532	100	25,149	25,694	102	30,762	31,033	101
Feb. 28	24,680	24,911	101	25,645	25,002	97	30,603	30,948	101
Mar. 6	25,491	25,837	101	25,042	25,559	102	30,315	31,160	103
Mar. 13	23,738	25,314	107	25,582	25,468	100	29,522	31,225	106
Mar. 20	24,173	24,832	103	25,419	25,561	101	29,982	31,636	106
Mar. 27	24,592	24,554	100	25,098	25,833	103	29,511	31,331	106

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2003-2004



EGGS SET, 2003 - 2004



BROILER/EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar		21-Feb	28-Feb	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	
Alabama	30,113 *	30,433	29,537	29,773	106	20,929	21,906	21,665	21,822	22,282	21,895	104
ARKANSAS	31,160	31,225	31,636	31,331	106	24,532	24,911	25,837 *	25,314 *	24,832 *	24,554	100
Delaware	3,818	3,199	3,611	3,834	106	5,126	4,512	4,145	4,799	5,372	4,928	94
Florida	1,359	1,334	1,349	1,337	84	1,980 *	1,449	1,718 *	1,791	1,622	1,492	91
Georgia	32,686	32,896	32,201	32,685	105	25,969	26,370	26,205	26,331	26,106	25,892	102
Kentucky	7,047	7,099	6,685	7,176	120	5,579	6,184	5,716	5,957	5,632	5,680	110
Maryland	8,861	8,826	8,923	8,875	93	5,302	5,815	6,312	5,633	5,099	5,890	94
Mississippi	19,219	19,173	19,113	19,179	100	16,524	16,379	16,485	16,503	16,208	16,428	100
N. Carolina	18,484 *	18,986	19,195	18,611	97	14,067	14,229	14,409	15,067	14,689	14,615	97
Oklahoma	6,516	6,442 *	6,568 *	6,585	106	4,369	4,842	4,087	5,038 *	5,545	5,278	121
Pennsylvania	3,877	3,997 *	4,028 *	4,007	100	2,502	2,638	2,668	2,622 *	2,778 *	2,884	106
S. Carolina	3,781	3,836	3,694	3,781	76	4,154	3,795	3,980	3,721	4,097	4,714	117
Texas	15,078	15,101	15,109	15,397	104	12,230	12,125	12,320	12,354	12,428	12,438	101
Virginia	6,544	6,606	6,734 *	6,834	102	4,925	4,890	5,093	4,992	5,685 *	5,606	104
CA,LA,MO,IN,WV	21,664	21,461	21,571 *	21,550	104	19,202	18,274	18,598	18,659	19,265 *	20,146	103
Total 2004	210,207 *	210,614 *	209,954 *	210,955		167,390 *	168,319	169,238 *	170,603 *	171,640 *	172,440	
Total 2003	207,539	204,958	206,460	205,168		164,469	163,548	165,230	167,239	169,125	169,325	
%Prev. Year	101	103	102	103		102	103	102	102	101	102	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	01-May	08-May	15-May	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 211 million eggs during the week ending March 27, 2004. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 172 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 27, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 27, 2004 were 2.19 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.